

VZCZCXYZ0007
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHLO #1014 1001441
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 091441Z APR 08
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8200
INFO RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 2638
RUEHOR/AMEMBASSY GABORONE 0085
RUEHSB/AMEMBASSY HARARE 0155
RUEHLS/AMEMBASSY LUSAKA 0097
RUEHTO/AMEMBASSY MAPUTO 0052
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 3171
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 0583
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1154
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 001014

SIPDIS

NOFORN
SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR AF AND EUR/WE/UK

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/09/2018

TAGS: [EC](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [SA](#) [UK](#) [EU](#) [UNSC](#) [ZI](#)

SUBJECT: (C) HMG CONSIDERING OPTIONS IN AFTERMATH OF
ZIMBABWE'S ELECTIONS, INCLUDING POSSIBLE UNSC ACTION

Classified By: Political Counselor Richard Mills for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) Foreign Office Zimbabwe Section Chief Ben Llewellyn-Jones confirmed to Poloff on April 7 that Prime Minister Brown had urged South African president Thabo Mbeki to use his influence in an effort to bring a positive end to Zimbabwe's political crisis when the two men meet on April 6. Llewellyn-Jones said that because of the UK's colonial past in Zimbabwe, and the fact that approximately 14,000 British nationals reside in Zimbabwe, HMG prefers not to be "in the driver's seat" on the issue. For now, in order not to give Mugabe and ZANU-PF additional "anti-imperial ammunition," Mbeki and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) should be seen as the primary actors working to resolve the stalemate there. Llewellyn-Jones said that Mbeki and the SADC are expected to make more appeals and recommendations, and Brown strongly suggested to Mbeki that the SADC push for additional election observers to operate throughout Zimbabwe in the event that a run-off takes place.

12. (C) According to Llewellyn-Jones, HMG is willing to wait until mid-April for the Mugabe-controlled Zimbabwe Election Commission (ZEC) to release the results of the presidential election. He also agreed that bringing the issue before Zimbabwe's High Court may well further complicate matters. Nevertheless, should the ZEC continue its delaying tactics, HMG will begin issuing more forceful public statements over the coming days while also pressing the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) to publicize any anomalies or evidence of vote-rigging in an effort to avoid any repetition in a future run-off of "techniques" the ZESN may have uncovered.

EU Playing More Helpful Role

13. (C) On a more positive note, Llewellyn-Jones conveyed the FCO's pleasure at seeing the European Commission assume an increasingly helpful role towards Zimbabwe and a willingness to weigh in more effectively. He believes this is happening because the UK, France and Germany have all lined up together, thereby "making it harder for the other European countries to ignore what is going on."

UK Considering a UNSC "Threat"

¶4. (C) Acknowledging the reluctance of the SADC, Mbeki, and other African political leaders to criticize Robert Mugabe, Llewellyn-Jones indicated that HMG is prepared to "threaten" to bring the Zimbabwe crisis before the UN Security Council. Just the threat of doing so would serve as a swipe at SADC and South African diplomacy, and may prod Mbeki and the SADC to take more effective, and vocal, diplomatic action toward Zimbabwe, Llewellyn-Jones suggested.

Foreign Office Preparing Options Paper

¶5. (C/NF) FCO has ordered Llewellyn-Jones to draft a "game plan" examining HMG's near-term options for various contingencies, as well as possible outcomes for Zimbabwe. Llewellyn-Jones promised to share a copy of the plan with Post once it has been finalized.

Visit London's Classified Website:
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/london/index.cfm>
Tuttle